

of us pay those health care insurance premiums and we are all going to pay higher premiums, but even much more seriously than that, we are going to be threatening the welfare of the people of the State of Nebraska by allowing this profession a scope of practice which they obviously are not qualified to be engaged in. I implore you to kill LB 142. It is indeed a threatening and a dangerous piece of legislation in its current form and I hope that you will join me in killing this very bad piece of legislation.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Chronister.

SENATOR CHRONISTER: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President and colleagues, today, as last week, we are hearing this same old story that chiropractors have no education in the basic sciences. That is the reason I am arising to oppose the kill motion. I do not rise to criticize Senator Cullan at this time but merely to indicate how chiropractors are qualified to do what they are doing. Just how well is today's chiropractor educated. They have six and a half years of college that includes about 4,485 hours of classes. The subjects I named to you before, anatomy, physiology and so forth. Their colleges have well-equipped labs for anatomy and dissection, chemistry, bacteriology and so forth. Breaking down some of the hours quoting one college, the National College of Chiropractic, they have about 375 hours of just x-ray. Northwestern College of Chiropractic has 195 hours of only blood and urine testing. All colleges have similar courses. They also have about 600 hours of internship which qualifies them for licensure in all states. They take rigid state chiropractic board of examination tests before they are able to start practicing, and after graduation, they must take educational seminars annually for licensure renewal. This is a Nebraska state law and it was brought about by the chiropractors themselves. Another point I would like to make is the fact that the Nebraska Doctors of Chiropractic have never asked the Legislature for protection against their own patients. If a chiropractor makes a mistake, the patient can sue for unlimited damages. Malpractice premiums for the chiropractic profession liability are going down, less than \$800 a year. Now let's look at Nebraska medical doctors. They have asked the Legislature for and got in 1976 a special law protecting only medical doctors from their patient suits. If a medical doctor makes a mistake, the patient cannot collect more than \$100,000 from the MD personally. Malpractice premiums for medical malpractice insurance are high and seem to go higher. Another thing, Nebraska chiropractors have never asked the Legislature for state taxes for